

Application No. 11/961,111
Amended December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 15, 2004

005/014

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The Listing of Claims set forth below shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A pier system, ~~according to claim 1,~~ further comprising:

a shelf beam having a side panel and a shelf member connected substantially along the length of the side panel;

at least one support post, coupled to the side panel of the shelf beam;

a decking unit capable of resting upon the shelf member of the shelf beam; and

a sleeve axially slidable onto each support post, which is attached to the respective support post, and to which is attached the respective shelf beam.
3. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 2, further comprising fasteners for coupling the side panel of each shelf beam to at least one support post.
4. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 2, wherein the shelf beam is made of extruded aluminum.

Application No. 10/605,111
Amended December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 17, 2004

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5. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 12, wherein the ratio of the length of the side panel above the shelf member to the length of the side panel below the shelf member is at least 1:1.

6. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 42, wherein the ratio of the length of the side panel above the shelf member to the length of the side panel below the shelf member is at least 5:1.

7. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 42, wherein the decking unit is substantially triangular.

8. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 42, further comprising:

a support bar coupled to the shelf members, which is capable of spanning the distance between two points on the shelf members of the beams; and

a plurality of support bar fasteners for fixedly coupling the support bar to the shelf members.

9. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 42, further comprising:

an inverted truss having a main crossbeam coupled to the shelf members, the main crossbeam of which is capable of spanning the distance between two points on the shelf members of the beams; and

a plurality of truss fasteners for fixedly coupling the truss to the shelf members.

Application No. 10-088,117
Amended December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 15, 2004

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10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The pier system according to claim 9, wherein the truss contains aluminum.

12. (Currently amended) The pier system according to claim 9, wherein the truss is in the shape of an isosceles triangle; and
the main crossbeam of the truss is perpendicularly, fixedly coupled to at least one support tie.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A pier system, ~~according to claim 13, further~~
comprising:

at least two shelf beams, each having a side panel and a shelf member connected substantially along the length of the side panel;

at least two support posts, coupled to the side panel of each of the shelf beams;

a decking unit capable of resting upon the shelf members of the at least two shelf beams;

an inverted truss having a main crossbeam coupled to the shelf members, the main crossbeam of which is capable of spanning the distance between two points on the shelf members of the beams; and

Application No. 10/609,111
Amended December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 15, 2004

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at least two decking units, wherein the first decking unit is substantially rectangular in shape and the second decking unit is substantially trapezoid in shape.

15. (Currently amended) A method of constructing a pier system, comprising:

erecting a first pier frame by coupling at least two shelf beams to at least two support posts;

positioning a sleeve axially slidable onto each support post, which is attached to the respective support post, and to which is attached the respective shelf beam; and

positioning a first decking unit upon the first pier frame, whereby the first decking unit rests upon ~~the~~ at least a shelf members of the beams.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~4~~15, further comprising:

coupling a second pier frame to the first pier frame, whereby the length of the pier system is extended by one module;

positioning a second decking unit upon the second pier frame; and

repeating the extension of pier frames and positioning of decking units until a pier system of desired size is achieved.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~4~~15, wherein a flotation device is coupled to each pier frame and decking unit, whereby the flotation device buoys the shelf beams and decking unit.

Application No. 10/01117
Amended December 15, 2004
Replies to Office Action of September 15, 2004

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18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)